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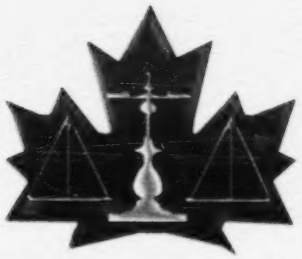
Juristat

Adult criminal court statistics in Canada, 2014/2015



by Ashley Maxwell
Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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. not available for any reference period
.. not available for a specific reference period
... not applicable
0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
^{p} preliminary
^{r} revised
x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
^{E} use with caution
F too unreliable to be published
* significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

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Adult criminal court statistics in Canada, 2014/2015

by Ashley Maxwell

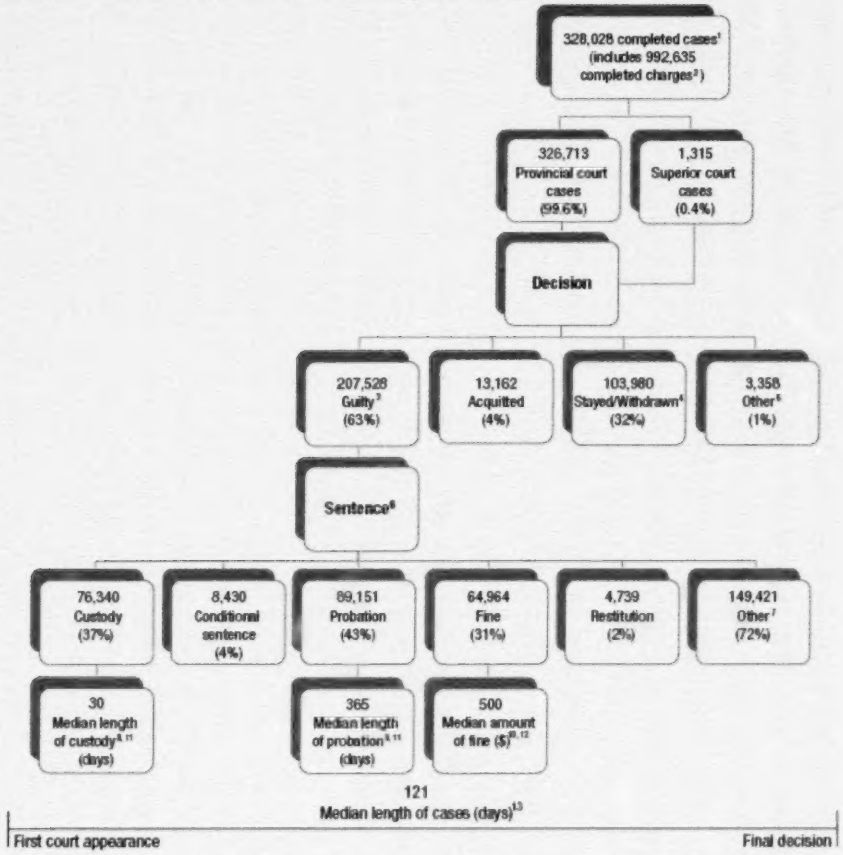
One of the key components of Canada's criminal justice system is the courts. The courts interpret and apply the Constitution, the legislation passed by governments, and develop and apply the common law. The courts' main responsibility is administering justice, by ensuring that crimes are prosecuted fairly and in accordance with Canada's legal and constitutional structure (Department of Justice Canada 2015a). The courts are also responsible for rendering decisions regarding the culpability of those accused of committing a criminal offence, as well as determining an appropriate sentence should the accused plead or be found guilty (Department of Justice Canada 2015b).

This *Juristat* article presents information on the characteristics of criminal court cases involving adults (18 years and older).[1] Using data from the 2014/2015 Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS), the article presents several key indicators of the adult criminal court process, and focuses on the number of completed cases (including the most common types of offences), the decisions made in cases, as well as the types and lengths of sentences that are imposed on accused persons who are found guilty. In addition, the amount of time it takes to complete adult criminal court cases and the factors which may influence case processing times are presented. Finally, this article briefly presents results by age and sex of the accused.

Over the years, decisions rendered by the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC), as well as a variety of initiatives that were put forward by different levels of government have influenced the volume of cases and the processing of those cases before the courts. The statistical trends presented in this report reflect, among other things, the progress made in implementing all of these practices and initiatives and are based on standardized reporting rules established with Statistics Canada's various partners through the ICCS. However, it is impossible to identify a specific initiative as the source of the changes observed in the statistical trends; rather, the trends reflect the cumulative impact of these initiatives combined.

Completed adult criminal court cases in 2014/2015 at a glance

Adult criminal court statistics in Canada, 2014/2015



1. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision.
2. A charge refers to a formal accusation against an accused person or company involving a federal statute offence that has been processed by the courts and received a final decision.
3. Guilty findings include guilty of the offence, of an included offence, of an attempt of the offence, or of an attempt of an included offence. Also includes guilty pleas, and cases where an absolute or conditional discharge has been imposed.
4. Includes stays, withdrawals, dismissals and discharges at preliminary inquiry as well as court referrals to alternative or extrajudicial measures and restorative justice programs.
5. Includes final decisions of found not criminally responsible and waived out of province or territory. Also includes any order where a conviction was not recorded, the court's acceptance of a special plea, cases that raise *Charter* arguments and cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial.
6. Cases may involve more than one type of sentence, therefore, percentages do not total 100%.
7. "Other" sentences include absolute and conditional discharge, suspended sentence, community service order and prohibition order among others.
8. Custodial sentence lengths reflect the amount of time remaining to be served on a custodial sentence after credit has been awarded for time spent in pre-sentence custody. However, in some jurisdictions, the length of custody information represents the total length of custody imposed by the court. Excludes cases in which the length of the custody sentence was unknown or indeterminate. Length of custody information are not available from Manitoba.
9. Data exclude cases in which the length of the probation sentence was unknown or greater than 3 years. Length of probation information are not available from Manitoba.
10. Data exclude cases in which the amount of the fine was unknown. Amount of fine information are not available from Manitoba.
11. The median is the point at which half of all cases had longer sentence lengths and half had shorter sentence lengths.
12. The median is the point at which half of all cases had higher sentence amounts and half had lower sentence amounts.
13. Case lengths are calculated based on the number of days it takes to complete a case, from first appearance to final decision. The median is the point at which half of all cases had longer case lengths and half had shorter case lengths.

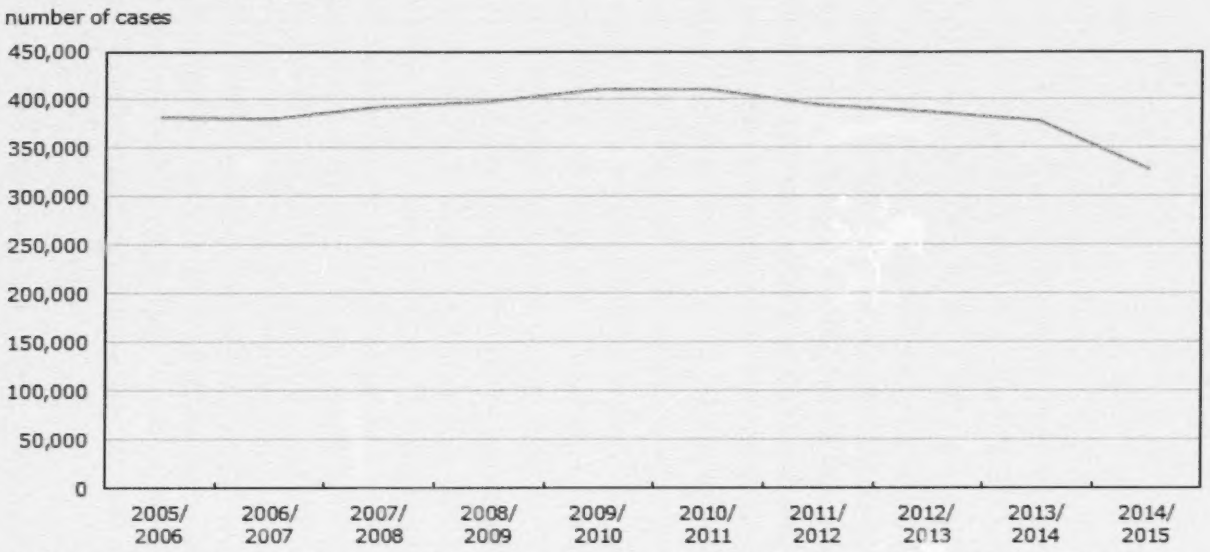
Note: Data exclude information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Completed adult criminal court cases decrease in 2014/2015

- In 2014/2015, there were 328,028 cases completed in adult criminal court, which involved 992,635 charges related to *Criminal Code* and other federal statute offences (Table 1). The number of completed adult criminal court cases decreased by 13% from the previous year, which represented the fifth consecutive annual decline, as well as the lowest number of completed adult criminal court cases that the survey has reported in the last decade (Chart 1).[2]

- The decrease from the previous year in the number of completed adult criminal court cases occurred throughout the entire country in 2014/2015. Quebec reported a decrease of nearly 20,000 completed cases (-25%), which was the largest decline in the country, and the largest contributor to the national trend (Table 2). This was followed by declines of over 10,000 cases in both Ontario (-9%) and Alberta (-21%).

Chart 1
Cases completed in adult criminal court, Canada, 2005/2006 to 2014/2015



Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Data exclude information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Adult criminal court cases decline for all offence types

- Non-violent offences represented more than three quarters (77%) of all cases completed in adult criminal court in 2014/2015 (Table 3).[3] This pattern has been consistent over time, and is also comparable with police-reported crime statistics which show that most criminal incidents involve non-violent offences (Allen 2016).

- There was a decrease in the number of completed adult criminal court cases for all offence types in 2014/2015, compared with 2013/2014. The largest decrease occurred in cases involving *Criminal Code* traffic offences (-23%). This was followed by decreases in cases involving other *Criminal Code* offences (i.e. weapons, prostitution, disturbing the peace and residual *Criminal Code* offences) and violent offences, which proportionally declined by 15% and 13% respectively.

- Five *Criminal Code* offence types made up nearly half (48%) of all cases completed in adult criminal court in 2014/2015. These five offences were: theft (10%), impaired driving (10%), failure to comply with a court order (10%), common assault (9%), and breach of probation (9%) (Chart 2). This trend in offence types has been consistent over the last decade. However, this was the first time in 10 years that impaired driving was not the most common offence.

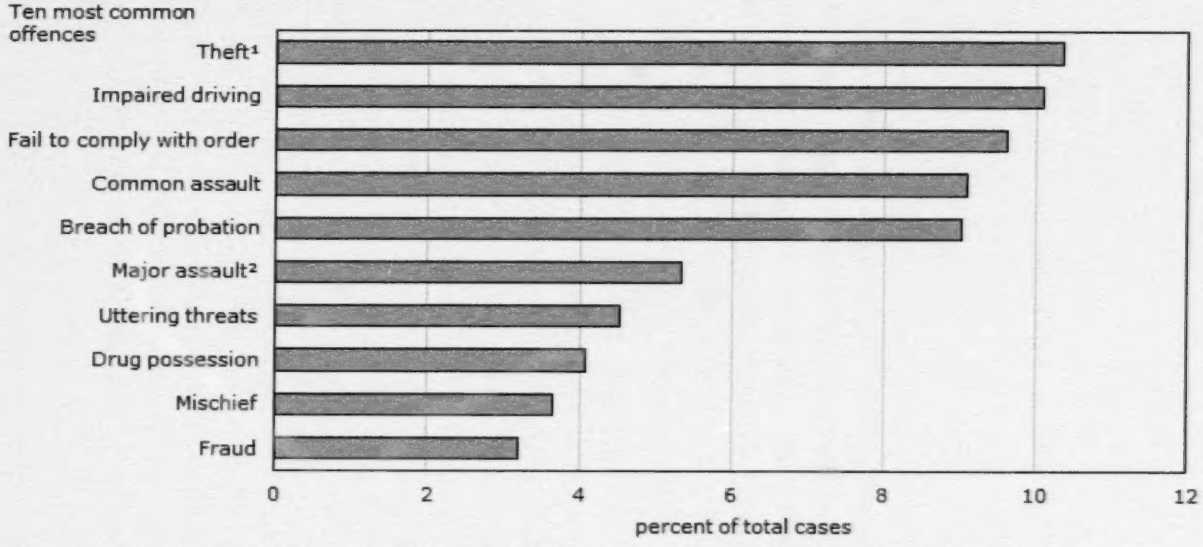
- A significant contributor to the overall decrease in the number of cases completed in adult criminal court in 2014/2015 was the decline in impaired driving cases. This decrease in impaired driving cases was also evident in police-reported statistics

(Perreault 2016). In terms of the volume of cases heard in adult criminal courts, impaired driving decreased the most from the previous year, with 44,476 cases completed in 2013/2014 compared with 33,121 cases completed in 2014/2015 (-11,355 cases). This represented a proportional decrease of 26%, which was largely the result of declines in the number of impaired driving cases in Quebec (-6,919), Alberta (-2,533), Ontario (-828) and British Columbia (-659).[4]

- Large decreases in the number of completed cases involving failure to comply with a court order (-4,818), common assault (-4,302) and theft (-3,521) were also observed. Proportionally, these offence types declined by 13%, 13% and 9% respectively. The largest proportional decline was observed in cases involving prostitution offences (-62%), which decreased by 569 cases from the previous year.[5]

- Administration of justice offences, which represented more than 1 in 5 cases (23%) completed in adult criminal court, continued to decline in 2014/2015. This category of offences, which includes offences such as failure to appear in court and breach of probation, gradually increased between 2005/2006 and 2010/2011. Beginning in 2011/2012, the number of cases involving administration of justice offences began to decline. This offence type decreased by 11% in 2014/2015, compared with the previous year.[6]

Chart 2
Ten most common offences for cases completed in adult criminal court, Canada, 2014/2015



1. Includes, for example, theft over $5,000, theft $5,000 or under, as well as motor vehicle theft.
2. Includes, for example, assault with a weapon (level 2) and aggravated assault (level 3).
Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Cases that involve more than one charge are represented by the most serious offence. Data exclude information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Nearly two thirds of completed adult cases result in guilty finding

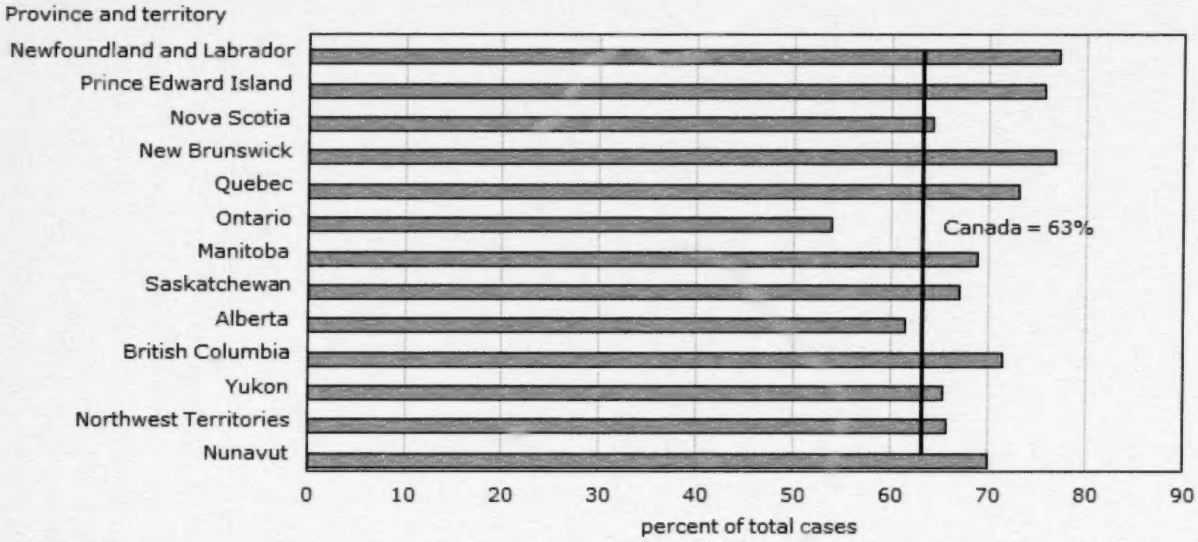
- In 2014/2015, 63% of all cases completed in adult criminal court resulted in a finding of guilt (Table 4). This category includes a finding of guilt imposed by the court, as well as guilty pleas, and cases where an absolute or conditional discharge has been imposed. The proportion of guilty cases in adult criminal court has remained relatively stable over the past 10 years.

- The proportion of cases resulting in a guilty finding varies by province and territory, and may be due to different jurisdictional court practices. For example, court decisions may be affected by pre-charge screening, which is a formal process whereby a Crown prosecutor (as opposed to police) determines whether a criminal charge is laid and proceeds to court (Public Prosecution Service of Canada 2014). The proportions of guilty findings in New Brunswick (77%), Quebec (73%) and British Columbia (72%) were among some of the highest in the country in 2014/2015,

where pre-charge screening systems are currently in place (Chart 3). Ontario (54%), which is not a pre-charge screening jurisdiction, reported the lowest proportion of guilty findings in 2014/2015.

- Cases may also be stopped or interrupted for a variety of reasons (e.g., lack of admissible evidence or referral to an alternative measures program), which leads to charges being stayed (suspended for up to one year), withdrawn, dismissed or discharged. In 2014/2015, 11% of all completed cases were stayed, and 21% were withdrawn. This has been a consistent trend over the last 10 years. The remaining cases resulted in either an acquittal (4%), where the accused was found not guilty of the charges presented before the court, or in another type of decision (1%), such as the accused was found not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder.[7, 8]

Chart 3
Guilty cases in adult criminal court, by province and territory, 2014/2015



Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Data excludes information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data. There are many factors that may influence variations between jurisdictions, therefore, comparisons should be made with caution.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Cases involving violent offences result in guilty finding less often than non-violent cases

- Guilty findings also vary by offence type. In 2014/2015, cases completed in adult criminal court involving violent offences resulted in a finding of guilt less often than property offences and administration of justice offences (49% versus 59% and 72%, respectively) (Table 4).

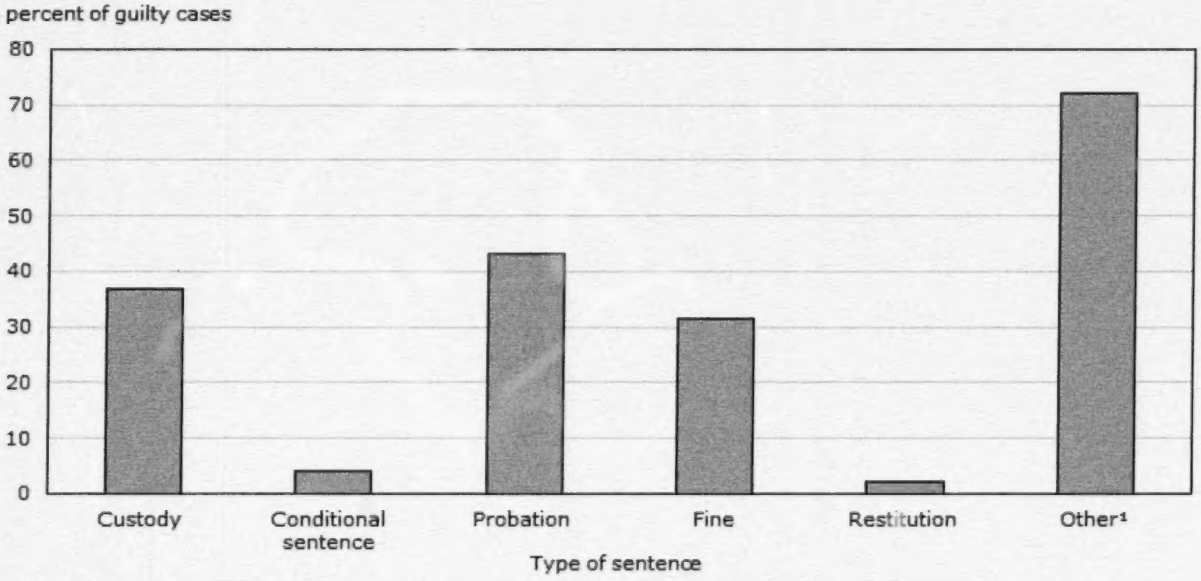
- Among specific offence types, cases involving residual federal statutes (84%) and being unlawfully at large (81%) had the highest proportion of guilty decisions. In contrast, 1 in 5 (20%) cases involving attempted murder resulted in a guilty decision. More than half (53%) of all completed cases involving attempted murder resulted in a withdrawal. This was the highest proportion of withdrawn decisions for all offence types in 2014/2015.

- Cases involving the five most common offences in 2014/2015 (theft, impaired driving, failure to comply with an order, common assault and breach of probation) resulted in a guilty finding more often than any other type of decision, which has been a stable trend over the last decade. Breach of probation cases resulted in a finding of guilt in 80% of cases, followed by impaired driving (79%), failure to comply with a court order (68%), theft (61%) and common assault (47%).

Probation most common sentence imposed in adult criminal court

- Judges are responsible for determining the appropriate sentence for accused persons who are found guilty of a criminal offence, by considering the key principles of sentencing, and weighing various factors associated with the incident (e.g. the gravity of the offence, the history of the accused, etc.) (Department of Justice 2005). Sentences can be imposed either on their own, or in combination with another type of sentence.
- Following a consistent trend over the last decade, probation continued to be the most common type of sentence imposed in adult criminal court cases in 2014/2015, at 43% of all guilty cases (Table 5; Chart 4).[9] A probation sentence requires the offender to remain in the community and be subject to particular conditions, such as keeping the peace and appearing in court as required.
- In 2014/2015, probation sentences were imposed most frequently for cases involving criminal harassment (89%), uttering threats (76%) and common assault (76%). In contrast, only 11% of cases involving impaired driving received probation sentences.
- In 2014/2015, the median length of probation in Canada was 365 days (1 year). The median length of probation was similar among most offence types, including all *Criminal Code* traffic and administration of justice offences. Among guilty cases, the median length of probation was longest for homicide cases, at 913 days. However, this sentence type was only imposed in 7% of all homicide cases completed in adult criminal court in 2014/2015.
- A fine was imposed in 31% of adult criminal court cases in 2014/2015. In general, the maximum fines that can be imposed can range from $1,000 for less serious offences, up to $250,000 for more serious offences. In 2014/2015, the median amount of fine imposed was $500. Close to 9 in 10 (89%) impaired driving cases received a fine sentence in 2014/2015.

Chart 4
Guilty cases in adult criminal court, by type of sentence, Canada, 2014/2015



1. Includes, for example, absolute and conditional discharge, suspended sentence, community service order and prohibition order.
Note: Cases may involve more than one type of sentence, therefore, percentages do not total 100%. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Data excludes information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

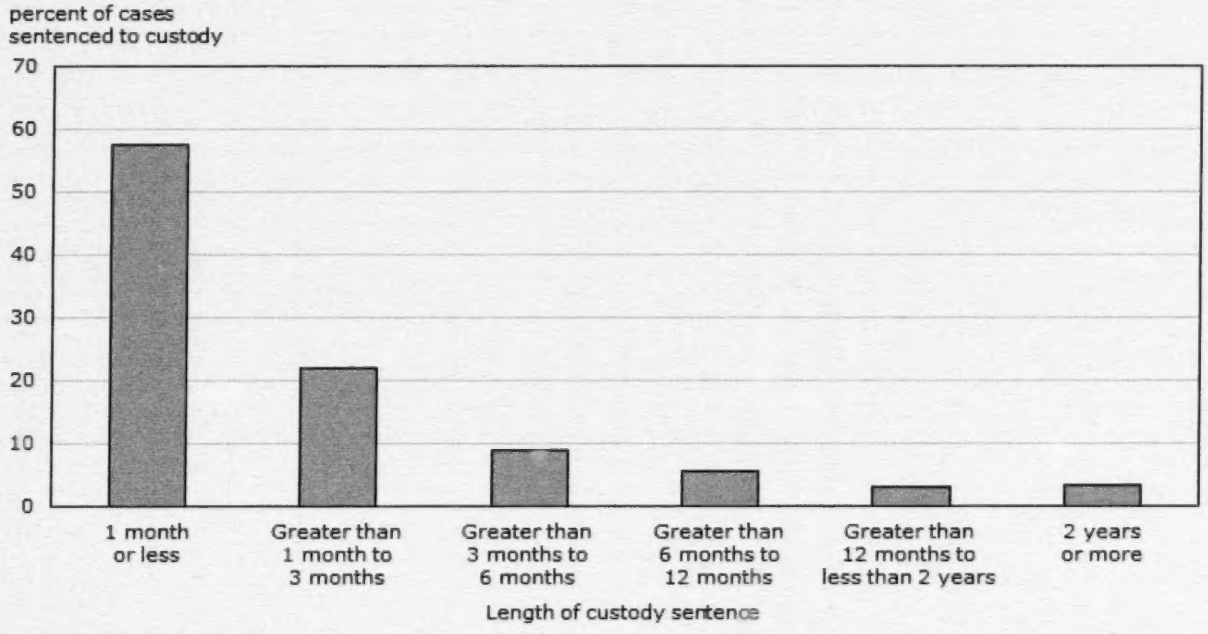
Most custody sentences less than 6 months

- In 2014/2015, custodial sentences were imposed in just over one third (37%) of guilty adult criminal court cases (Table 5). This was the lowest number (76,340) of custodial sentences imposed over the last 10 years, yet it

represented the highest proportion of guilty cases receiving this sentence type within the time period. A custody sentence was most often imposed in cases involving being unlawfully at large (87%), homicide (82%) and robbery (80%).

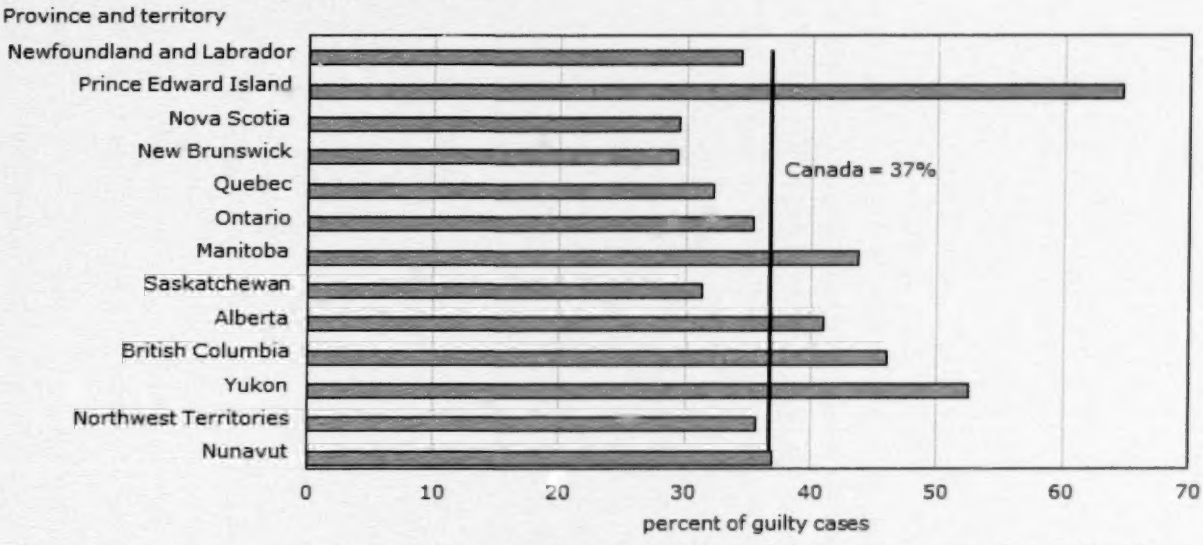
- When looking at the five most common offences in 2014/2015, a custodial sentence was most frequently imposed in cases involving breach of probation (56%), and failure to comply with a court order (46%). This trend has been stable since 2005/2006.
- In 2014/2015, 88% of individuals sentenced to custody received a sentence of six months or less (Chart 5).[10] More specifically, over half of all individuals (57%) received a custodial sentence of one month or less. About 3% of individuals received a custody sentence of two years or more.
- Overall, the median length of a custodial sentence in 2014/2015 was 30 days (1 month).[11] The median length of custody was longest for cases involving attempted murder (2,555 days) and homicide (1,825 days), and shortest for cases involving disturbing the peace (5 days) and failure to appear in court (7 days).
- The proportion of completed cases sentenced to custody varies across the provinces and territories. Since 2005/2006, Prince Edward Island (65%) has consistently imposed custodial sentences at a considerably higher proportion than the rest of Canada (37%) (Chart 6). In contrast, the lowest proportions of custody sentences in 2014/2015 were found in New Brunswick (29%), Nova Scotia (29%) and Saskatchewan (31%).
- Similar to previous years, the main reason for the high proportion of custodial sentences in Prince Edward Island relates to cases of impaired driving. In that province, courts imposed a custodial sentence in the majority (88%) of all impaired driving cases in 2014/2015. Canada as a whole imposed custodial sentences in 9% of all impaired driving cases.

Chart 5
Guilty cases in adult criminal court, by length of custody sentence, Canada, 2014/2015



Note: Custodial sentence lengths reflect the amount of time remaining to be served on a custodial sentence after credit has been awarded for time spent in pre-sentence custody. However, in some jurisdictions, the length of custody information represents the total length of custody imposed by the court. Excludes cases in which the length of the custody sentence was unknown or indeterminate. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Data excludes information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data. Length of custody data are not available from Manitoba.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Chart 6
Guilty cases in adult criminal court sentenced to custody, by province and territory, 2014/2015



Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Data excludes information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data. There are many factors that may influence variations between jurisdictions, therefore, comparisons should be made with caution.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Case processing times decline

Text box 1
New presumptive ceiling framework for processing criminal court cases

The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* outlines that an accused person has a fundamental right to be tried in a timely manner.[12] While the *Charter* does not indicate a specific time limit that is required to process criminal court cases, case law from the *R. v. Askov* [1990] and *R. v. Morin* [1992] decisions previously indicated that an 8 to 10 month time period was generally considered to be a reasonable amount of time to complete a provincial court case.[13, 14] An additional 6 to 8 months was also deemed acceptable for cases involving trials in superior court, which overall tend to be more complex.

In July 2016, the Supreme Court of Canada released its decision on *R. v. Jordan*. Jordan was charged in December 2008 for his role in a drug operation that sold cocaine and heroin in British Columbia. Jordan was ultimately found guilty during his trial, which was completed in February 2013. From the time Jordan was initially charged to his conviction, more than 49 months had passed. Jordan brought an application under s. 11(b) of the *Charter*, seeking a stay of proceedings due to this delay. After review, the Court of Appeal dismissed his appeal application by applying the *R. v. Morin* framework, and Jordan was convicted. However, on appeal, the Supreme Court ruled that the delay was in fact unreasonable, and therefore, a stay of proceedings was entered. In its ruling, the Supreme Court also set out a new presumptive ceiling framework that should be applied to avoid delays in processing criminal court cases, and thereby achieve reasonably prompt justice.[15]

Under this new framework, there is a presumptive ceiling for processing criminal court cases (i.e., 18 months for cases tried in provincial court; and 30 months for cases tried in superior court or provincial court after a preliminary inquiry). Anything beyond these time periods is presumptively unreasonable. Of note is that delay attributable or waived by the defence does not count towards the presumptive ceiling. However, once the presumptive ceiling has been exceeded, the burden is on the Crown to justify the delay on the basis of exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances lie outside the Crown's control in that (1) they are reasonably unforeseen or reasonably unavoidable, and (2) they cannot reasonably be remedied.

- The analysis that follows represents adult criminal court case processing times, i.e. the amount of time it takes from an individual's first court appearance to the final decision in their case.[16] There are a variety of different factors that can contribute to case processing times in criminal courts (e.g., the number of accused, the number and types of charges, the number of court appearances, the number of pre-trial motions, whether there is a guilty plea, the

presence of a trial, whether an accused has legal representation and whether a preliminary inquiry was requested and/or held) (Department of Justice 2006; Department of Justice 2015b).[17] Case processing times are also influenced by the availability of court resources (judges and lawyers), case management practices, and differences in the structure and operations of courts, which can vary across the country.

- The length of time taken to complete adult criminal court cases declined in 2014/2015. The median amount of time from an individual's first court appearance to the completion of their case was 121 days (around 4 months), which was six days shorter than the previous year (Chart 7), and three days shorter than a decade ago.

- Nearly half (49%) of all cases took less than four months to complete in 2014/2015. This was followed by 42% of cases that took between 4 and 18 months to complete. The remaining 9% of cases took between 18 and 30 months to complete (6%), or 30 months or longer to complete (3%).

- In 2014/2015, the median number of appearances it took to complete a case was 5. This number has remained unchanged over the past decade.

- Cases involving more serious offences often require more appearances, and take longer to complete than cases involving less serious offences. Homicide cases in 2014/2015 took the longest to complete (493 days), and required the largest number of appearances (19 appearances) (Table 3). In contrast, cases involving administration of justice offences had a median of 4 appearances, and took just over two months (73 days) to complete.

- More than half (60%) of all cases completed in adult criminal court in 2014/2015 involved multiple charges. These cases took 5 months to complete (150 days). In contrast, single charge cases represented 40% of all completed cases, and took about 3 months to complete (87 days).

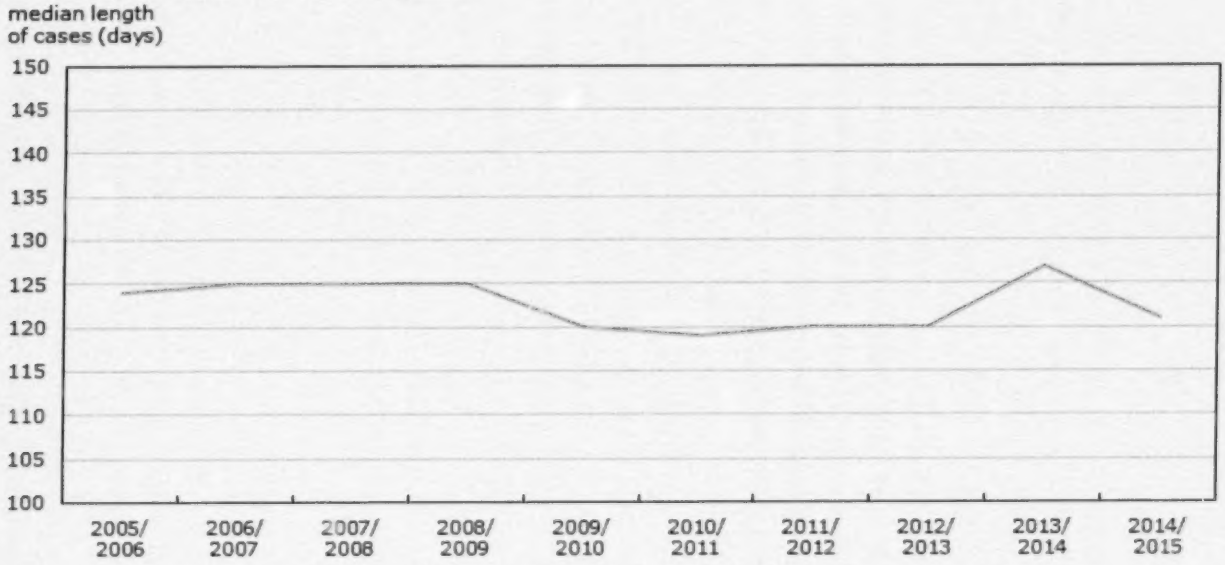
- The number of days and court appearances it took to complete a case in adult criminal court in 2014/2015 also varied by the court level (provincial or superior court) in which the case was completed. Some of the most serious offence types, such as first degree murder, are under exclusive jurisdiction of superior courts. Provincial court cases, which represented over 99% of the completed case load in 2014/2015, had a median case length of 120 days, and a median of 5 appearances. Superior court cases had a median case length of 565 days, and a median of 15 appearances.[18]

- The presence of a preliminary inquiry can also often increase the amount of time it takes to complete a case. In 2014/2015, there were 9,179 completed adult criminal court cases (provincial and superior court cases) that had at least one charge with a preliminary inquiry that was requested and/or held, which has been a consistent trend over the last 10 years.[19, 20, 21] Of those cases, 7,432 were completed in less than 30 months, while 1,747 took 30 months or longer to complete. Furthermore, there were also 23,850 completed provincial court cases without a preliminary inquiry that was requested and/or held that took 18 months or longer to complete.

- Delays can sometimes cause court cases to be stayed or withdrawn. While the ICCS does not collect the reasons behind court decisions, it is interesting to look at the proportion of cases that have a final decision of stayed or withdrawn, in comparison with case lengths. In 2014/2015, a smaller proportion of cases that resulted in a decision of stayed (5%) or withdrawn (6%) were 18 months or longer, in comparison with those resulting in a guilty (9%) decision or an acquittal (25%).

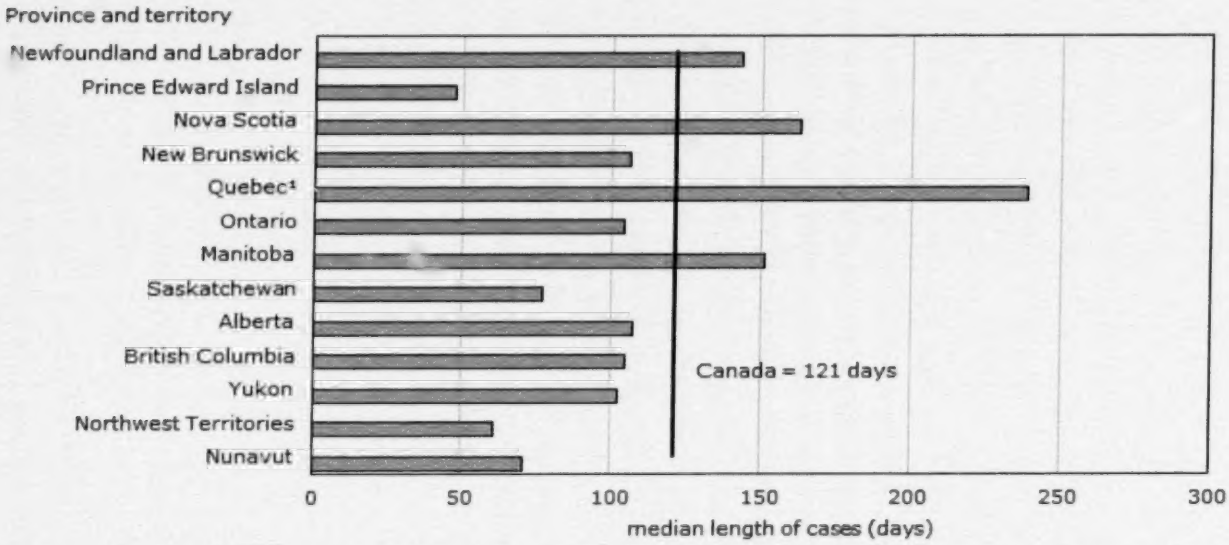
- In 2014/2015, the amount of time it took to complete adult criminal court cases varied considerably throughout the provinces and territories, which has been a similar trend since 2005/2006. Prince Edward Island recorded the shortest median elapsed time, at 47 days (Table 2; Chart 8). In contrast, the median case length was over three times longer in Manitoba (151 days) and Nova Scotia (163 days), while Quebec reported the longest median case length in 2014/2015, at 239 days. Manitoba also reported the longest median number of appearances in a case, at 7 appearances, while the Northwest Territories reported the shortest median, at 1 appearance per case.

Chart 7
Median length of cases completed in adult criminal court, Canada, 2005/2006 to 2014/2015



Note: Case lengths are calculated based on the number of days it takes to complete a case, from first appearance to final decision. The median is the point at which half of all cases had longer case lengths and half had shorter case lengths. Excludes cases in which the case length was unknown. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Data excludes information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Chart 8
Median length of cases completed in adult criminal court, by province and territory, 2014/2015



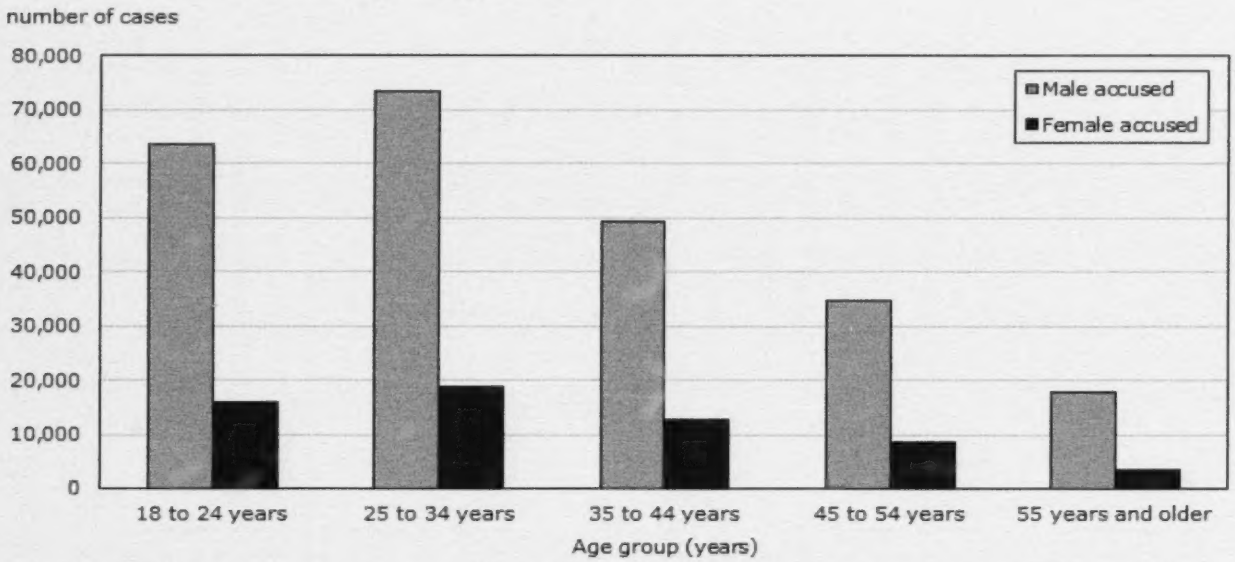
1. The median length of case completion in Quebec may be over-estimated given that data from municipal courts, which tend to handle the least serious matters, are unavailable.
Note: Case lengths are calculated based on the number of days it takes to complete a case, from first appearance to final decision. The median is the point at which half of all cases had longer case lengths and half had shorter case lengths. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Data exclude information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data. There are many factors that may influence variations between jurisdictions, therefore, comparisons should be made with caution.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Majority of adult court cases involve males, younger adults

- In 2014/2015, 8 in 10 accused persons in adult criminal court were male (80%) (Table 6). This proportion has gradually decreased over the past decade. Compared with women, men represented a substantially higher proportion of accused persons in violent crime cases, such as sexual assault (98%), other sexual offences (97%), attempted murder (89%) and robbery (89%). When women accused were before the courts, it was most frequently in relation to non-violent crime such as theft (35%) and fraud (33%).

- Adults under the age of 35 represented 58% of all accused persons appearing in criminal court in 2014/2015 (Chart 9).[22] This age group represented 51% of accused persons in police-reported crime statistics in 2014/2015.[23] Adults aged 18 to 34 represented a larger proportion of the accused in criminal court cases involving robbery (79%) and drug possession (73%) in 2014/2015, compared with other age groups.

Chart 9
Cases completed in adult criminal court, by age group and sex of the accused, Canada, 2014/2015



Note: Includes information on accused persons aged 18 years or over at the time of the offence. Excludes cases in which the age and/or the sex of the accused was unknown. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Data excludes information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Ontario, and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data. Information on the sex of the accused is not available from Manitoba.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Survey description

The Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS) is administered by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (Statistics Canada) in collaboration with provincial and territorial government departments responsible for criminal courts in Canada. The survey collects statistical information on adult and youth court cases involving *Criminal Code* and other federal statute offences. Data contained in this article represent the adult criminal court portion of the survey, namely, individuals who were 18 years of age or older at the time of the offence.

The primary unit of analysis is a case. A case is defined as one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. A case combines all charges against the same person having one or more key overlapping dates (date of offence, date of initiation, date of first appearance, or date of decision) into a single case.

A case that has more than one charge is represented by the charge with the "most serious offence" (MSO). The most serious offence is selected using the following rules. First, court decisions are considered and the charge with the "most serious decision" (MSD) is selected. Court decisions for each charge in a case are ranked from most to least serious as follows: (1) guilty, (2) guilty of a lesser offence, (3) acquitted, (4) stay of proceeding, (5) withdrawn, dismissed or discharged, (6) not criminally responsible, (7) other, and (8) transfer of court jurisdiction.

Second, in cases where two or more charges result in the same MSD (e.g., guilty), *Criminal Code* sentences are considered. The charge with the most serious offence type is selected according to an offence seriousness scale, based on actual sentences handed down by courts in Canada.[24] Each offence type is ranked by looking at (1) the proportion of guilty charges where custody was imposed and (2) the average (mean) length of custody for the specific type of offence. These values are multiplied together to arrive at the final seriousness ranking for each type of offence. If, after looking at the offence seriousness scale, two or more charges remain tied then information about the sentence type and duration of the sentence are considered (e.g., custody and length of custody, then probation and length of probation, etc.).

In 2014/2015, ICCS coverage reflected all cases completed in adult Canadian criminal courts, with the exception of superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec. These data were not available for extraction from the provinces' electronic reporting systems and therefore, were not reported to the survey.

The absence of data from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan may have resulted in an underestimation of the severity of sentences in this article, since some of the most serious cases, which are likely to result in the most severe sentences, are processed in superior courts. There may also be an underestimation of case elapsed times as more serious cases generally require more court appearances and take more time to complete. In 2014/2015, superior court data reported to the survey represented less than 1% of all cases completed in adult criminal court.

In addition, in Quebec, some municipal courts hear cases under Part XXVII of the *Criminal Code*, that is, summary convictions. Such cases, which correspond to an accused in an incident, are excluded from the information that Quebec transmits to Statistics Canada. Cases heard by municipal courts account for approximately 14% of all criminal cases opened in Quebec. As a result, the median processing time for cases in Quebec may be overestimated since the data from municipal courts, which normally hear less serious cases, are not taken into account.

Cases are counted in the fiscal year in which they are completed. Every year, the Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS) database is considered final at the end of March for the production of court statistics for the previous fiscal year. These counts do not include cases pending an outcome at the end of the reference period. If an outcome is reached in the next fiscal year, these cases are included in the completed case counts for that fiscal year. However, cases that are inactive for one year are deemed complete and the originally published counts for the previous fiscal year are updated and reported in the next fiscal year's data release. This approach is difficult to apply in Quebec, where all cases for which data are provided are deemed completed. Information from the Court of Quebec and the Superior Court is reported using the former Adult Criminal Court Survey national data requirements (NDR) rather than the ICCS NDR. In as much as possible, the data are converted to ICCS format during data processing; however, the conversion seems to have a negative impact on the number of annual updates.

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Notes

1. For information on youth statistics in Canada, see Miladinovic 2016.

2. At the time of this publication, information reported to the Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS) demonstrated a 13% decline between 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 in the number of completed adult court cases. However, it is expected that updates received at a later date will result in an additional 2% in the number of cases for 2014/2015. For further information, see Survey description section.

3. Unless otherwise stated, adult criminal court cases that involve more than one charge are represented by the most serious offence. For further information, see the Survey description section.

4. For further information on impaired driving, see Perreault 2016.

5. In December 2014, new legislation came into force which made it a criminal offence to purchase sexual services from any person, leading to a decline in police-reported prostitution offences. For further information on prostitution, see Rotenberg 2016.

6. For information on offences against the administration of justice in Canada, see Burczycka and Munch 2015.

7. Other decisions include final decisions of found not criminally responsible and waived out of province or territory. This category also includes any order where a conviction was not recorded, the court's acceptance of a special plea, cases which raise *Charter* arguments and cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial.

8. For further information on decisions of not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder, see Miladinovic and Lukassen 2014.

9. Probation was considered the most serious sentence in 26% of all guilty cases. Custody was considered the most serious sentence in 37% of cases. A fine was considered the most serious sentence in 24% of cases.

10. Custodial sentence lengths reflect the amount of time remaining to be served on a custodial sentence after credit has been awarded for time spent in pre-sentence custody. However, in some jurisdictions, the length of custody information represents the total length of custody imposed by the court.

11. Excludes cases in which the length of custody was unknown.

12. See *Constitution Act,* 1982. Part 1. *The Charter of Rights and Freedoms,* s. 11(b).

13. See *R. v. Askov* [1990], 2 S.C.R. 1199. In this decision, the Supreme Court affirmed the right of an accused to be brought to trial without excessive delay, by identifying four factors that must be considered when determining if delay has been reasonable. These factors are the length of the delay, the explanation for the delay, waiver of the delay by the accused and any prejudice to the accused.

14. See *R. v. Morin* [1992], 71 C.C.C. (3d) 193 (S.C.C.). The judgment in *Morin* expanded on the ruling in *Askov* and indicated that that some delays in case processing may not be unreasonable, but the reasons behind the delays and the circumstances surrounding cases were very important in assessing whether delays were problematic.

15. See *R. v. Jordan* [2016], 338 C.C.C. (3d) 27 (S.C.C.).

16. The ICCS does not collect information related to court delays.

17. A preliminary inquiry is a judicial hearing which is used in serious criminal cases to determine whether the evidence assembled by the Crown against an accused person is sufficient to proceed with a trial. The preliminary inquiry is not a trial in the strict sense, although evidence is given upon oath and the accused or the accused's counsel is entitled to cross examine any witnesses summoned by the Crown. See Department of Justice Canada 2015a.

18. Excludes information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan due to the unavailability of data. For further information, see the Survey description section.

19. ICCS data is currently not able to distinguish between preliminary inquiries which are scheduled and held, as opposed to those which may be scheduled, but are not held. For example, an accused's court appearance may have initially been for a preliminary inquiry, however the accused decides to plead guilty before the preliminary inquiry takes place.

20. See note 18.

21. Analysis related to preliminary inquiries includes cases in which at least one charge had a preliminary inquiry which was scheduled and/or held, irrespective of whether that charge was the most serious offence in the case.

22. Excludes cases involving companies and those in which the sex and/or age of the accused was unknown.

23. Based on data obtained from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey.

24. The offence seriousness scale is calculated using data from both the adult and youth components of the ICCS from 2006/2007 to 2010/2011.

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Charges and cases completed in adult criminal court, Canada, 2005/2006 to 2014/2015

	Total charges[1]		Total cases[2]	
Year	number	percent change from previous year	number	percent change from previous year
2005/2006	1,094,431	...	382,322	...
2006/2007	1,109,587	1.4	380,537	-0.5
2007/2008	1,151,509	3.8	393,193	3.3
2008/2009	1,187,324	3.1	398,697	1.4
2009/2010	1,224,191	3.1	410,051	2.8
2010/2011	1,224,787	0.0	409,957	0.0
2011/2012	1,196,169	-2.3	394,116	-3.9
2012/2013	1,182,345	-1.2	387,614	-1.6
2013/2014	1,134,483	-4.0	379,058	-2.2
2014/2015	992,635	-12.5	328,028	-13.5

... not applicable

1. A charge refers to a formal accusation against an accused person or company involving a federal statute offence that has been processed by the courts and received a final decision.
2. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision.

Note: Data exclude information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Table 2
Cases completed in adult criminal court, by province and territory, 2013/2014 and 2014/2015

	2013/2014		2014/2015		Percent change in number of cases 2013/2014 to 2014/2015	Difference in median length of cases 2013/2014 to 2014/2015
Province/territory	number	median length of case (days)[1]	number	median length of case (days)[1]	percent	days
Canada	**379,057**	**127**	**328,028**	**121**	**-13**	**-6**
Newfoundland and Labrador	5,183	148	4,839	143	-7	-5
Prince Edward Island	1,379	40	1,259	47	-9	7
Nova Scotia	11,550	155	10,899	163	-6	8
New Brunswick	7,404	105	6,657	106	-10	1
Quebec	77,294	237	57,941	239	-25	2
Ontario	135,324	99	123,072	104	-9	5
Manitoba	19,494	162	18,095	151	-7	-11
Saskatchewan	23,337	73	22,767	77	-2	4
Alberta	56,831	127	44,829	107	-21	-20
British Columbia	36,763	113	33,930	105	-8	-8
Yukon	991	92	910	103	-8	11
Northwest Territories	1,627	68	1,317	61	-19	-7
Nunavut	1,880	66	1,513	71	-20	5

1. Case lengths are calculated based on the number of days it takes to complete a case, from first appearance to final decision. The median is the point at which half of all cases had longer case lengths and half had shorter case lengths. Excludes cases in which the case length was unknown.

Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Data exclude information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data. There are many factors that may influence variations between jurisdictions, therefore, comparisons should be made with caution.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Table 3
Cases completed in adult criminal court, by type of offence, Canada, 2013/2014 and 2014/2015

Type of offence[1]	2013/2014 number[2]	2013/2014 median length of case (days)[3]	2014/2015 number[2]	2014/2015 median length of case (days)[3]	Percent change in number of cases 2013/2014 to 2014/2015 percent	Difference in median length of cases 2013/2014 to 2014/2015 days
Violent offences	**87,887**	**174**	**76,888**	**176**	**-13**	**2**
Homicide	278	451	236	493	-15	42
Attempted murder	202	317	137	322	-32	5
Robbery	3,669	224	3,028	242	-17	18
Sexual assault	3,135	324	2,586	310	-18	-14
Other sexual offences[4]	3,661	309	3,204	321	-12	12
Major assault[5]	20,009	199	17,531	199	-12	0
Common assault	34,169	135	29,867	141	-13	6
Uttering threats	16,546	162	14,863	160	-10	-2
Criminal harassment	3,325	168	2,808	178	-16	10
Other violent offences	2,893	228	2,628	222	-9	-6
Property offences	**85,300**	**107**	**76,356**	**104**	**-10**	**-3**
Theft[6]	37,522	76	34,001	71	-9	-5
Break and enter	10,388	178	8,569	173	-18	-5
Fraud	11,963	175	10,470	169	-12	-6
Mischief	13,248	113	11,951	112	-10	-1
Possess stolen property	10,636	102	9,977	99	-6	-3
Other property offences	1,543	151	1,388	155	-10	4
Administration of justice offences	**84,213**	**78**	**74,811**	**73**	**-11**	**-5**
Fail to appear	4,497	72	3,769	76	-16	4
Breach of probation	32,035	64	29,626	62	-8	-2
Unlawfully at large	2,642	13	2,470	13	-7	0
Fail to comply with order	36,362	85	31,544	83	-13	-2
Other administration of justice offences	8,677	135	7,402	127	-15	-8
Other *Criminal Code* offences	**16,341**	**170**	**13,843**	**169**	**-15**	**-1**
Weapons	9,600	178	8,713	171	-9	-7
Prostitution	924	111	355	190	-62	79
Disturbing the peace	1,338	61	1,094	65	-18	4
Residual *Criminal Code* offences	4,479	224	3,681	212	-18	-12
***Criminal Code* (excluding traffic)**	**273,741**	**121**	**241,898**	**120**	**-12**	**-1**
***Criminal Code* traffic offences**	**54,666**	**161**	**42,165**	**126**	**-23**	**-35**
Impaired driving	44,476	155	33,121	105	-26	-50
Other *Criminal Code* traffic offences	10,190	175	9,044	176	-11	1
Total *Criminal Code* offences	**328,407**	**126**	**284,063**	**120**	**-14**	**-6**
Other federal statute offences	**50,650**	**135**	**43,965**	**134**	**-13**	**-1**
Drug possession	15,072	88	13,375	92	-11	4
Other drug offences[7]	10,434	256	8,825	259	-15	3
Youth Criminal Justice Act	1,136	48	886	54	-22	6
Residual federal statute offences	24,008	148	20,879	135	-13	-13
Total offences	**379,057**	**127**	**328,028**	**121**	**-13**	**-6**

1. Cases that involve more than one charge are represented by the most serious offence.
2. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision.
3. Case lengths are calculated based on the number of days it takes to complete a case, from first appearance to final decision. The median is the point at which half of all cases had longer case lengths and half had shorter case lengths. Excludes cases in which the case length was unknown.
4. Includes, for example, sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, child pornography, luring a child via a computer and sexual exploitation.
5. Includes, for example, assault with a weapon (level 2) and aggravated assault (level 3).
6. Includes, for example, theft over $5,000, theft $5,000 or under, as well as motor vehicle theft.
7. Includes drug trafficking, production, importing and exporting.

Note: Data exclude information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Table 4
Cases completed in adult criminal court, by type of offence and decision, Canada, 2014/2015

Type of offence[1]	Guilty[2]		Stayed[3]		Withdrawn[4]		Acquitted		Other decisions[5]		Total cases	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Violent offences	**38,020**	**49**	**9,958**	**13**	**21,153**	**28**	**6,452**	**8**	**1,305**	**2**	**76,888**	**100**
Homicide	111	47	32	14	74	31	7	3	12	5	236	100
Attempted murder	28	20	17	12	73	53	10	7	9	7	137	100
Robbery	1,742	58	320	11	758	25	176	6	32	1	3,028	100
Sexual assault	1,116	43	399	15	774	30	252	10	45	2	2,586	100
Other sexual offences[6]	1,808	56	409	13	702	22	220	7	65	2	3,204	100
Major assault[7]	9,161	52	2,331	13	4,273	24	1,525	9	241	1	17,531	100
Common assault	14,104	47	4,443	15	9,194	31	1,737	6	389	1	29,867	100
Uttering threats	7,626	51	1,505	10	3,565	24	1,861	13	306	2	14,863	100
Criminal harassment	1,323	47	175	6	857	31	341	12	112	4	2,808	100
Other violent offences	1,001	38	327	12	883	34	323	12	94	4	2,628	100
Property offences	**45,071**	**59**	**11,693**	**15**	**17,348**	**23**	**1,601**	**2**	**643**	**1**	**76,356**	**100**
Theft[8]	20,720	61	5,760	17	6,967	20	388	1	166	0	34,001	100
Break and enter	5,794	68	777	9	1,462	17	424	5	112	1	8,569	100
Fraud	6,531	62	1,213	12	2,317	22	218	2	191	2	10,470	100
Mischief	6,289	53	1,871	16	3,386	28	313	3	92	1	11,951	100
Possess stolen property	4,752	48	1,950	20	2,994	30	218	2	63	1	9,977	100
Other property offences	985	71	122	9	222	16	40	3	19	1	1,388	100
Administration of justice offences	**54,072**	**72**	**6,336**	**8**	**12,477**	**17**	**1,362**	**2**	**564**	**1**	**74,811**	**100**
Fail to appear	1,799	48	526	14	1,377	37	18	0	49	1	3,769	100
Breach of probation	23,772	80	1,972	7	3,189	11	501	2	192	1	29,626	100
Unlawfully at large	2,010	81	60	2	293	12	93	4	14	1	2,470	100
Fail to comply with order	21,336	68	2,987	9	6,424	20	582	2	215	1	31,544	100
Other administration of justice offences	5,155	70	791	11	1,194	16	168	2	94	1	7,402	100
Other *Criminal Code* offences	**8,367**	**60**	**1,501**	**11**	**3,251**	**23**	**577**	**4**	**147**	**1**	**13,843**	**100**
Weapons	5,429	62	868	10	2,001	23	340	4	75	1	8,713	100
Prostitution	66	19	116	33	132	37	39	11	2	1	355	100
Disturbing the peace	706	65	139	13	235	21	6	1	8	1	1,094	100
Residual *Criminal Code* offences	2,166	59	378	10	883	24	192	5	62	2	3,681	100
***Criminal Code* (excluding traffic)**	**145,530**	**60**	**29,488**	**12**	**54,229**	**22**	**9,992**	**4**	**2,659**	**1**	**241,898**	**100**
***Criminal Code* traffic offences**	**33,260**	**79**	**1,253**	**3**	**5,767**	**14**	**1,632**	**4**	**253**	**1**	**42,165**	**100**
Impaired driving	26,096	79	921	3	4,483	14	1,450	4	171	1	33,121	100
Other *Criminal Code* traffic offences	7,164	79	332	4	1,284	14	182	2	82	1	9,044	100
Total *Criminal Code* offences	**178,790**	**63**	**30,741**	**11**	**59,996**	**21**	**11,624**	**4**	**2,912**	**1**	**284,063**	**100**
Other federal statute offences	**28,738**	**65**	**4,125**	**9**	**9,118**	**21**	**1,538**	**3**	**446**	**1**	**43,965**	**100**
Drug possession	6,230	47	2,519	19	4,549	34	27	0	50	0	13,375	100
Other drug offences[9]	4,401	50	1,228	14	3,032	34	115	1	49	1	8,825	100
Youth Criminal Justice Act	599	68	131	15	147	17	3	0	6	1	886	100
Residual federal statute offences	17,508	84	247	1	1,390	7	1,393	7	341	2	20,879	100
Total offences	**207,528**	**63**	**34,866**	**11**	**69,114**	**21**	**13,162**	**4**	**3,358**	**1**	**328,028**	**100**

1. Cases that involve more than one charge are represented by the most serious offence.
2. Guilty findings include guilty of the offence, of an included offence, of an attempt of the offence, or of an attempt of an included offence. Also includes guilty pleas, and cases where an absolute or conditional discharge has been imposed.
3. Includes stays as well as court referrals to alternative or extrajudicial measures and restorative justice programs.
4. Includes withdrawals, dismissals and discharges at preliminary inquiry.
5. Includes final decisions of found not criminally responsible and waived out of province or territory. Also includes any order where a conviction was not recorded, the court's acceptance of a special plea, cases that raise *Charter* arguments and cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial.
6. Includes, for example, sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, child pornography, luring a child via a computer and sexual exploitation.
7. Includes, for example, assault with a weapon (level 2) and aggravated assault (level 3).
8. Includes, for example, theft over $5,000, theft $5,000 or under, as well as motor vehicle theft.
9. Includes drug trafficking, production, importing and exporting.

Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Data exclude information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Table 5
Guilty cases completed in adult criminal court, by type of offence and select sentence, Canada, 2014/2015

	Total guilty cases	Custody[2]			Probation[3]			Fine[4]		
Type of offence[1]	number	number	percent	median length (days)[5]	number	percent	median length (days)[5]	number	percent	median amount (dollars)[6]
Violent offences	**38,020**	**13,586**	**36**	**70**	**27,325**	**72**	**365**	**3,686**	**10**	**200**
Homicide	111	91	82	1,825	8	7	913	5	5	1,000
Attempted murder	28	20	71	2,555	2	7	x	1	4	x
Robbery	1,742	1,395	80	365	879	50	730	96	6	10
Sexual assault	1,116	635	57	255	698	63	730	33	3	100
Other sexual offences[7]	1,808	1,212	67	180	1,274	70	730	100	6	200
Major assault[8]	9,161	4,338	47	80	6,042	66	365	889	10	100
Common assault	14,104	2,195	16	30	10,754	76	365	1,487	11	300
Uttering threats	7,626	2,830	37	30	5,791	76	365	921	12	200
Criminal harassment	1,323	386	29	45	1,178	89	545	91	7	100
Other violent offences	1,001	484	48	121	699	70	545	63	6	100
Property offences	**45,071**	**19,019**	**42**	**30**	**26,058**	**58**	**365**	**7,925**	**18**	**150**
Theft[9]	20,720	8,668	42	23	11,358	55	365	4,614	22	125
Break and enter	5,794	3,504	60	120	3,791	65	540	420	7	10
Fraud	6,531	2,500	38	45	3,878	59	365	841	13	250
Mischief	6,289	1,346	21	19	4,248	68	365	1,094	17	200
Possess stolen property	4,752	2,408	51	40	2,249	47	365	853	18	250
Other property offences	985	593	60	59	534	54	365	103	10	15
Administration of justice offences	**54,072**	**27,356**	**51**	**14**	**17,215**	**32**	**365**	**13,850**	**26**	**200**
Fail to appear	1,799	745	41	7	442	25	365	625	35	150
Breach of probation	23,772	13,313	56	15	8,378	35	365	5,631	24	150
Unlawfully at large	2,010	1,740	87	14	446	22	365	176	9	150
Fail to comply with order	21,336	9,782	46	9	5,935	28	365	5,966	28	175
Other administration of justice offences	5,155	1,776	34	17	2,014	39	365	1,452	28	300
Other *Criminal Code* offences	**8,367**	**3,493**	**42**	**60**	**4,132**	**49**	**365**	**1,758**	**21**	**250**
Weapons	5,429	2,268	42	50	2,608	48	365	1,140	21	250
Prostitution	66	29	44	180	28	42	453	8	12	350
Disturbing the peace	706	146	21	5	328	46	365	251	36	200
Residual *Criminal Code* offences	2,166	1,050	48	90	1,168	54	540	359	17	200
***Criminal Code* (excluding traffic)**	**145,530**	**63,454**	**44**	**30**	**74,730**	**51**	**365**	**27,219**	**19**	**200**
***Criminal Code* traffic offences**	**33,260**	**5,698**	**17**	**33**	**5,264**	**16**	**365**	**25,916**	**78**	**1,200**
Impaired driving	26,096	2,434	9	32	2,827	11	365	23,218	89	1,200
Other *Criminal Code* traffic offences	7,164	3,264	46	39	2,437	34	365	2,698	38	1,000
Total *Criminal Code* offences	**178,790**	**69,152**	**39**	**30**	**79,994**	**45**	**365**	**53,135**	**30**	**1,000**
Other federal statute offences	**28,738**	**7,188**	**25**	**90**	**9,157**	**32**	**365**	**11,829**	**41**	**250**
Drug possession	6,230	749	12	14	1,999	32	365	2,988	48	300
Other drug offences[10]	4,401	2,317	53	180	1,485	34	365	511	12	500
Youth Criminal Justice Act	599	204	34	7	171	29	270	182	30	200
Residual federal statute offences	17,508	3,918	22	90	5,502	31	365	8,148	47	200
Total offences	**207,528**	**76,340**	**37**	**30**	**89,151**	**43**	**365**	**64,964**	**31**	**500**

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Cases that involve more than one charge are represented by the most serious offence.
2. Custodial sentence lengths reflect the amount of time remaining to be served on a custodial sentence after credit has been awarded for time spent in pre-sentence custody. However, in some jurisdictions, the length of custody information represents the total length of custody imposed by the court. Excludes cases in which the length of the custody sentence was unknown or indeterminate. Length of custody information are not available from Manitoba.
3. Excludes cases in which the length of the probation sentence was unknown or greater than three years. Length of probation data are not available from Manitoba.
4. Excludes cases in which the amount of the fine was unknown. Amount of fine data are not available from Manitoba.
5. The median is the point at which half of all cases had longer sentence lengths and half had shorter sentence lengths.
6. The median is the point at which half of all cases had higher sentence amounts and half had lower sentence amounts.
7. Includes, for example, sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, child pornography, luring a child via a computer and sexual exploitation.
8. Includes, for example, assault with a weapon (level 2) and aggravated assault (level 3).
9. Includes, for example, theft over $5,000, theft $5,000 or under, as well as motor vehicle theft.
10. Includes drug trafficking, production, importing and exporting.

Note: Cases may involve more than one type of sentence and/or other sentences not shown, therefore, percentages do not total 100%. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Data exclude information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Table 6
Cases completed in adult criminal court, by type of offence and sex of the accused, Canada, 2014/2015

	Male		Female	
Type of offence[1]	number[2]	percent	number[2]	percent
Violent offences	**56,805**	**82**	**12,460**	**18**
Homicide	182	86	29	14
Attempted murder	114	89	14	11
Robbery	2,403	89	310	11
Sexual assault	2,239	98	46	2
Other sexual offences[3]	2,715	97	87	3
Major assault[4]	12,002	77	3,564	23
Common assault	21,036	77	6,166	23
Uttering threats	11,911	88	1,635	12
Criminal harassment	2,178	88	305	12
Other violent offences	2,025	87	304	13
Property offences	**51,118**	**72**	**19,971**	**28**
Theft[5]	20,788	65	11,076	35
Break and enter	6,755	87	988	13
Fraud	6,391	67	3,181	33
Mischief	9,206	82	1,966	18
Possess stolen property	6,852	73	2,599	27
Other property offences	1,126	87	161	13
Administration of justice offences	**54,175**	**82**	**12,083**	**18**
Fail to appear	2,756	76	876	24
Breach of probation	21,770	84	4,274	16
Unlawfully at large	1,762	90	200	10
Fail to comply with order	22,823	81	5,224	19
Other administration of justice offences	5,064	77	1,509	23
Other *Criminal Code* offences	**10,626**	**87**	**1,639**	**13**
Weapons	7,055	90	793	10
Prostitution	261	84	50	16
Disturbing the peace	847	83	174	17
Residual *Criminal Code* offences	2,463	80	622	20
***Criminal Code* (excluding traffic)**	**172,724**	**79**	**46,153**	**21**
***Criminal Code* traffic offences**	**32,173**	**82**	**6,911**	**18**
Impaired driving	24,832	81	5,822	19
Other *Criminal Code* traffic offences	7,341	87	1,089	13
Total *Criminal Code* offences	**204,897**	**79**	**53,064**	**21**
Other federal statute offences	**33,869**	**85**	**6,116**	**15**
Drug possession	10,842	85	1,947	15
Other drug offences[6]	6,456	79	1,671	21
Youth Criminal Justice Act	568	81	132	19
Residual federal statute offences	16,003	87	2,366	13
Total offences	**238,766**	**80**	**59,180**	**20**

1. Cases that involve more than one charge are represented by the most serious offence.
2. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision.
3. Includes, for example, sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, child pornography, luring a child via a computer and sexual exploitation.
4. Includes, for example, assault with a weapon (level 2) and aggravated assault (level 3).
5. Includes, for example, theft over $5,000, theft $5,000 or under, as well as motor vehicle theft.
6. Includes drug trafficking, production, importing and exporting.

Note: Includes information on accused persons aged 18 years or over at the time of the offence. Data excludes cases in which the age and/or the sex of the accused was unknown. Excludes information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data. Information on the sex of the accused is not available from Manitoba.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.